

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5047

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 4607

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, DR, CU

SUBJECT: CUBAN-DOMINICAN RELATIONS

1. A FIVE-MAN CUBAN DELEGATION ARRIVED IN SANTO DOMINGO ON OCT 12 AT THE INVITATION OF THE "COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF CUBA OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC." THE FIVE CUBANS WERE IDENTIFIED AS:

ERNESTO GOMEZ - FUNCTIONARY OF THE "CUBAN INSTITUTE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH THE PEOPLE" (INSTITUTO CUBANO DE AMISTAD CON LOS PUEBLOS)

SALVADOR MORALES - HISTORIAN

LUIS MOREJON - FUNCTIONARY OF THE CUBAN COMMUNIST PARTY (CCP)

OSVALDO CORDENAS - FUNCTIONARY OF THE CCP

OMAR CORDOVA RIVAS -CUBAN FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIAL

2. ON HAND AT AIRPORT TO GREET CUBANS WERE COMMITTEE OF FRIENDS OF CUBA PRESIDENT DR. EUCLIDES GUTIERREZ FELIX (LEADING MEMBER OF JUAN BOSCH'S PARTIDO DE LA LIBERACION DOMINICANO), RADICAL SINGER SONIA SILVESTRE AND DRS. ABELARDO VICIOSO, GONCALO GONZALVES C., AND ANDRES AVELINO. POLICE ADMITTED ONLY GUTIERREZ AND SILVESTRE INTO RECEPTION AREA TO MEET CUBAN
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DELEGATION. NO DETAILED PLANS FOR VISIT HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED.

3. ACCORDING TO STORY IN ULTIMA HORA, VISIT OF THE FIVE CUBANS WAS ARRANGED VIA AN EXCHANGE OF NOTES BETWEEN THE CUBAN AND DOMINICAN EMBASSIES IN KINGSTON.

4. COMMENT. THIS IS FIRST VISIT BY CCP OFFICIALS, ARRIVING IN THEIR CAPACITY AS PARTY MEMBERS, SINCE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC BROKE RELATIONS WITH CUBA. IT MAY BE ONE MORE INDICATION THAT DR IS CAUTIOUSLY MOVING TOWARD EXPANDED RELATIONS WITH CASTRO GOVERNMENT. OTHER RECENT INDICATIONS WERE CEDOPEX REPORT WHICH OPENLY ADVOCATED ESTABLISHMENT OF ECONOMIC CONTACTS WITH CUBA AND OCTOBER VISIT OF SUBSECRETARY OF EDUCATION DR. ALTAGRACIA PEREZ PENA TO CUBA FOR AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. IN ADDITION, THERE ARE REPORTS THAT CUBAN FOREIGN MINISTER RAUL ROA SENT A NOTE DIRECTLY TO DOMINICAN FOREIGN OFFICE REQUESTING GODR TO SEND A HIGH LEVEL REPRESENTATIVE TO THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION WHICH WILL BE HELD IN HAVANA OCTOBER 31 TO NOVEMBER 4. A LOCAL PRESS STORY CLAIMS THAT CUBANS WERE SO DESIROUS OF DOMINICAN PARTICIPATION IN THE COMMITTEE MEETING THAT ROA'S PERSONAL AIDE, ANGEL PERNAS, VISITED THE DR LAST WEEK TO CONSULT WITH HIGH DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO LOBBY FOR DOMINICAN ATTENDANCE.

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